

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN RIPON, WISCONSIN

### HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2004*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the first meeting of the Republican Party in the town of Ripon, Wisconsin on March 20, 1854. On that momentous day, a group of 54 concerned citizens gathered in the Little White Schoolhouse to protest the extension of slavery into the territories of Kansas and Nebraska. Led by Alvan Bovay, this group of citizens dissolved the local Whig and Free Soil parties and officially declared themselves "Republicans." For this reason, the Little White Schoolhouse has long been known as the Birthplace of the Republican Party.

Since its inception, the Republican Party has stood for Liberty and Equality for all—making the Little White Schoolhouse a symbol of civic responsibility to the residents of Ripon and the nation. On May 30, 1974, the Department of the Interior formally recognized the historical importance of the first meeting of the Republican Party by designating the Little White Schoolhouse as a National Historic Landmark. The structure is significant, according to the National Park Service, because "a meeting in this simple, one story clapboard and frame schoolhouse on March 20, 1854 and another in Jackson, Michigan on July 6" led to the formation of the Republican Party. To this day it attracts visitors from around the world.

In order to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Republican Party, the town of Ripon is holding a celebration entitled, "From Schoolhouse to White House; A Celebration of Active Citizenship" that will promote the importance of civic involvement. This celebration will also honor the leadership that 54 citizens of Ripon displayed on March 20, 1854, in proclaiming themselves Republicans under the banner of Liberty and Equality. The event on March 20, 2004, caps off a two month series of events that have been held in Ripon, including a conference on the accomplishments of Wisconsin women and mock elections held in the Ripon schools to focus attention on this most basic form of active citizenship.

Therefore, I want to once again recognize the 150th Anniversary of the first meeting of the Republican Party at the Little White Schoolhouse in Ripon, Wisconsin.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2004*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 16, 2004 and March 17, 2004 I missed rollcall votes Nos. 58 to 63.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 58, 59, and 60. In addition, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes Nos. 61, 62, and 63.

IN MEMORY OF HAROLD YEE

### HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2004*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay final tribute to civil rights leader and community activist Harold Yee, who passed away on February 5th in San Francisco. Harold was an extraordinary leader and visionary who empowered San Francisco's Asian American community to dramatically expand and solidify its economic and political strength.

Born in China in 1932, Harold immigrated to the United States in 1939 where he grew up in East Los Angeles. He received his bachelor's degree in pomology from UC Davis in 1956, and his master's degree in economics from UC Berkeley in 1961. Beginning as a researcher for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Harold discovered his passion for community development, eventually leaving the FDA in 1971 to found ASIAN, Inc.

Through ASIAN, Inc., Harold strengthened the San Francisco Asian American community economically, socially and politically. ASIAN, Inc. helped launch many minority-owned small businesses in San Francisco, trained young professionals for the rigors of running their own businesses, and encouraged the development of trade associations. Harold leaves a rich legacy, including more than 100 non-profit organizations and agencies.

Harold was a fierce advocate for the civil rights and equality of Asian Pacific Americans. He founded the Chinese American Voter Education Committee to increase political awareness and participation. His contributions to the Asian American Community and to the City of San Francisco are immeasurable.

Harold's boundless energy and enthusiasm for life were contagious. He was a mentor and a friend to countless people, who greatly benefited from his wisdom, support and friendship. It is with sadness and appreciation that I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife, Wilma, his daughter, Catherine, and his son, Robert. To his family and friends, thank you for allowing him to give his time to the community he loved.

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCE WILLIAM REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2004 VALOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

### HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 18, 2004*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, each year, the Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce honors individuals for courageous, selfless dedication to public safety. These remarkable men and women have played an important role in the protection and betterment of their community. Their tremendous efforts on behalf of Prince William County have earned them one of the highest honors bestowed upon county public safety officials—the Valor Award. It is with great honor that I recognize the Prince William County Gold, Silver, Bronze, Merit, Lifesaving, Hilary Robinette, and Special Department Valor Award recipients:

Gold.—Officer A.S. Robinson, Prince William County Police Department; Officer M.J. Harman, Prince William County Police Department.

Silver.—Detective J. Lanzafama, Prince William County Police Department; Officer K.K. Kane, Prince William County Police Department; Officer R. W. Kovach, Prince William County Police Department; Officer M.T. Sullivan, Prince William County Police Department; Officer W.F. VanAntwerp, Jr., Prince William County Police Department; Officer W.G. Ward, Prince William County Police Department; Officer M.L. West, Prince William County Police Department; Officer E.J. Barhart, Prince William County Police Department; Officer B.M. Carter, Prince William County Police Department; Officer M.J. Headrick, Prince William County Police Department; Officer C.A. Meurer, Prince William County Police Department, Vehicle Fire; Deputy Animal Control Officer L.A. Thompson, Prince William County Police Department; Deputy Animal Control Officer C.D. Firebaugh, Prince William County Police Department.

Bronze.—Police Officer First Class Esteban Jordan, City of Manassas Police Department; Deputy Kim El-bisi, Prince William County Sheriff's Office; Officer G.D. VanDyke, Prince William County Police Department; Officer S.M. Peak, Prince William County Police Department; Lieutenant Michael Nazionale, OWL Volunteer Fire Department; Technician II Brett Hamby, Prince William County Fire and Rescue; Technician II Jeff Howdyshe, Prince William County Fire and Rescue.

Merit.—Deputy Ricki Booth, Prince William County Sheriff's Office; Sergeant G.H. Howard, Prince William County Police Department; Officer R.A. Arce, Prince William County Police Department; Officer C.M. Begley, Prince William County Police Department; Officer M.J. McCauley, Prince William County Police Department; Officer J.G. Medawar, Prince William County Police Department; Officer R.W. Minnick, Prince William County Police Department, River Run Fire, Shell Station Fire; Officer S.C. Mercer, Prince William County Police Department; Officer C.A. Meurer, Prince William County Police Department, Shell Station Fire; Lieutenant B.L. Finn, Prince William County Police Department; Sergeant R.D. Larkin, Prince William County Police Department; Captain David Halman, OWL Volunteer Fire Department; Sergeant Eric Craven, OWL Volunteer Fire Department; Technician II Scott Richardson, Prince William County Department Fire and Rescue.

Lifesaving.—Sergeant R.D. Grinnell, Prince William County Police Department.

Hilary Robinette.—First Sergeant R.A. Cantarella, Prince William County Police Department, Excellence and Integrity for Investigative Work.

Special Department.—Dale City Volunteer Fire Department for Exceptional Firefighting and Lifesaving, February 8, 2003, River Run Senior Apartments; Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton Volunteer Fire Department for Exceptional Firefighting and Lifesaving, February 8, 2003, River Run Senior Apartments.

All of these individuals have provided invaluable community service, truly deserving these prestigious awards. I congratulate and commend them.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank all the men and women who serve Prince William County. These strong, brave, determined